

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (New): A device for holding an object under a vacuum, comprising:
a leak tight cavity that contains the object and in which the vacuum is created, the cavity being delimited by a first support, for which a first face forms a bottom of the cavity, and by a second support fixed to the first face so as to be leak tight;
a getter configured to trap gases that could be located in the cavity,
wherein the getter is placed outside the cavity and is contained in a leak tight housing connected to the cavity through at least one leak tight passage, the leak tight passage passing through the first support.

Claim 14 (New): A device according to claim 13, wherein the first face of the first support carries the object.

Claim 15 (New): A device according to claim 13, wherein the first face of the first support carries the object, the object being an uncooled infrared radiation emitter or receiver, or a set of such emitters or receivers, and the second support is configured to allow infrared radiation to pass through.

Claim 16 (New): A device according to claim 13, wherein the housing is formed in a second face of the first support opposite the first face, and the leak tight passage is formed through the first support to connect the housing to the cavity.

Claim 17 (New): A device according to claim 16, wherein the housing is hermetically sealed by at least one layer of a leak tight material.

Claim 18 (New): A device according to claim 16, wherein walls of the housing are covered by at least one layer protecting the first support from the getter.

Claim 19 (New): A device according to claim 18, wherein the at least one protecting layer is made of a material chosen from among SiO, SiN, and Si₃N₄.

Claim 20 (New): A device according to claim 13, wherein the getter is made from a material chosen from among titanium, molybdenum, barium, tantalum, zirconium, iron, and vanadium.

Claim 21 (New): A process for making the device according to claim 13, comprising:

- forming the object on the first face of the first support;
- forming the housing in the second face of the first support;
- forming the getter in the housing;
- hermetically sealing the getter in the housing;
- forming the passage through the first support;
- putting an assembly thus obtained under a vacuum;
- fixing the second support to the first face of the first support in a leak tight manner, under a vacuum; and
- activating the getter.

Claim 22 (New): A process for making the device according to claim 13, comprising:

- forming the object on the first face of the first support;
- forming the housing in the second face of the first support;
- forming the getter in the housing;
- forming the passage through the first support;
- fixing the second support to the first face of the first support in a leak tight manner,

under any type of atmosphere;

- putting an assembly thus obtained under a vacuum by pumping through the getter and the passage;
- hermetically sealing the getter in the housing; and
- activating the getter.

Claim 23 (New): A process for making the device according to claim 13, wherein the object is a component comprising an uncooled infrared radiation emitter or receiver, or a plurality of such components, the second support allowing infrared radiation to pass, a read circuit being associated with the component or with the plurality of such components and formed on the first support, the process comprising:

- forming the housing in the second face of the first support;
- forming the read circuit and the getter in the housing during initial steps of forming the read circuit, the initial steps resisting high temperatures, but before final steps for forming the read circuit;
- forming the object on the first face of the first support;
- hermetically sealing the getter in the housing;

forming the passage through the first support;
putting an assembly thus obtained under a vacuum;
fixing the second support to the first face of the first support in a leak tight manner,
under a vacuum; and
activating the getter.

Claim 24 (New): A process for making the device according to claim 13, wherein the object is a component comprising an uncooled infrared radiation emitter or receiver, or a plurality of such components, the second support allowing infrared radiation to pass through, a read circuit being associated with the component or with the plurality of such components and formed on the first support, the process comprising:

forming the housing in the second face of the first support;
forming the read circuit and the getter in the housing during initial steps of forming the read circuit, the initial steps resisting high temperatures, but before final steps for forming the read circuit;
forming the object on the first face of the first support;
forming the passage through the first support;
fixing the second support to the first face of the first support in a leak tight manner,
under any type of atmosphere;
putting an assembly thus obtained under a vacuum by pumping through the getter and the passage;
hermetically sealing the getter in the housing; and
activating the getter.